Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident Response

Unified Command Data Summary

XXXX E. 52nd Street, Maywood CA

DATE

Letter from PHO stating homes safe for occupancy

Overview of Fire

This document is provided to residents evacuated following the June 14, 2016 fire at the metal recycling facility located at 3570 Fruitland Ave. The fire produced fumes, smoke, and particulates (very tiny pieces of material) that were released into the air and settled on the ground of nearby properties as fire ash.

The safety of your home and property (indoors and outdoors) has been assessed by experts. This document provides information about the assessment and cleaning that took place inside and outside your home.

Fire Sampling Result

The UC took soil to ensure all soil did not contain hazardous levels of materials from the fire, and also the UC took air samples to see if air quality had stabilized.

We checked the soil – No visible ash was seen on the south side of E. 52nd St., so it was safe for residents to go home. Additionally, multiple samples were taken from the yards along the south side of E. 52nd St. Our sampling results showed there was no ash or high levels of metals in the soil.

We checked the air– The air was monitored upwind and downwind of the facility while the fire was burning, and for several days after the fire was out. Air samples were also taken to ensure air was safe to breath. Immediately following the incident, air monitors were placed near site. Air sampling test results showed air quality worsened shortly

after the incident, but that it had improved a couple days later, by June 16.

Sampling Residential Properties

1. Prior to work being conducted in or around my residence

The Unified Command (UC) for the Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident led the response operations and assessment of hazardous materials in the aftermath of the fire that began on June 14, 2016. The Unified Command is comprised of representatives from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health (DPH), and the Los Angeles County Fire Department Health Hazardous Materials Division (HHMD). Prior to entering your property to conduct any assessments or sampling, members of the Unified Command team obtained access agreements and explained the process and to the residents home to conduct sample. See **Attachment 1: Outdoor Checklist** Signatures.

2. What was tested in or around my residence?

Air and dust in your home were tested and analyzed at a laboratory for 22 different metals which is standard protocol: aluminum, antimony, arsenic, barium, beryllium, cadmium, calcium, chromium, cobalt, copper, iron, lead, magnesium, manganese, molybdenum, nickel, potassium, selenium, sodium, thallium, vanadium, and zinc. Most were below any level that would be a health concern. The metals found in the ash at the site that were a health concern are: chromium, copper, magnesium, and zinc. See **Attachment 2: Metals Tested Information** for more information on each metal.

3. What tests were conducted on my residence?

A. INDOOR

Sampling was conducted on every parcel and in every home on the north side of E. 52nd Street. Soil samples were collected to determine whether any contamination from the facility reached the residences. Indoor air was tested in each home by placing sampling devices inside the home. Fans were used to stir up any dust and ash that could be present – to get the maximum possible reading – and material in the air was collected onto filters placed at two different heights: breathing zones for children and adults. The samples were analyzed, and your results along with the screening lever are provided on the attached sheet.

For homes that had indoor air tests below the action level established by Unified Command, verification testing was done to confirm that site contaminants from the fire did not impact the interior of the residence. Dust from the floors was sampled in five places in your home. The locations chosen to be in high traffic areas or near open windows or doors, in order to have the best chance to find any ash that could have entered the home. A micro-vacuum was used to collect dust onto a filter that was analyzed for metals. The action level and your test results are

shown below.

For homes that required indoor cleaning, we need to change this writeup. They had initial sampling that showed indoor air was above our screening level.

Dust tests: the dust on your floors was also tested. Small children spend much of their time on the floor playing, so anything in the carpets can get on their hands or toys, and into their mouths. A micro-vacuum was used in five different areas in the home. Dust collected on the vacuum filter was analyzed for all 22 metals. See **Attachment 3a: Dust Data Tables** for results of the test.

Air tests: the air inside of your home was tested by placing air sampling devices inside your home. Fans were used to stir up any dust and ash – to get maximum possible test readings – and material in the air was collected on a filter and tested for all 22 metals. See **Attachment 3b: Air Data Tables**.

B. OUTDOOR – Each outdoor space was evaluated for the presence of ash. To protect your home from dust, openings—such as windows and doors— were sealed with plastic. The outside of your property was tested for soil contamination, and was cleaned to remove ash. Industrial high-efficiency particulate air (HEPA) filter vacuum trucks removed visible ash from roofs, outside walls, concrete areas, patios and other hard surfaces, lawns, plants, and exposed soil. Smaller items like outdoor furniture, tools, toys, and bikes were rinsed with clean water in a plastic enclosure to remove any ash. Soil testing results are in **Attachment 3c: Soil Data Tables.**

How was my residence cleaned?

-outdoor (was determined that indoor cleaning)

-For 11 (Indoor/outdoor (another attachment servpro cleaning package)

Is my residence safe? Yes!

Unified Command chose 4 metals that were found in ash and health concerns. UC developed action levels for each of the 4 metals: chromium, copper, magnesium, and zinc. These levels are very conservative, protective of health for the residents, including children. BASED ON residential exposure 24/7 for 29 years and children eating from the floor consuming XX ounces of dirt. See **Attachment 4: Health Officer Determination Form.**

What Happens Now?

As the cleanup activities continue on and around where the fire took place, every effort will be made to ensure that dust and ash do not re-enter your neighborhood. Occasionally, you may notice burned metal and other fire debris odors. However, there will be no permanent health impacts from this nuisance.

LA County Public Health will be available to answer any further questions you may have. They can be reached at 213.738.3220. For questions about the facility cleanup, you can speak with EPA's Community Involvement Coordinator, Carlin Hafiz, at 213.244.1814 or hafiz.carlin@epa.gov. (Spanish version contact for EPA- Para preguntas acerca de la limpieza de la instalacion en si, puede hablar con el Coordinador de Participacion Comunitaria de la EPA, Alejandro Diaz, al 415.972.3242 o diaz.alejandro@epa.gov)

Attachment 1: Outdoor Checklist

Attachment 2: Metals Tested Information

	Description	Sources	Safe Levels
Aluminum			
Antimony			
Arsenic			
Barium			
Beryllium			
Cadmium			
Calcium			
Chromium	Chromium is a naturally-occurring element found in rocks, animals, plants, and soil, where it exists in combination with other elements to form various compounds. Since chromium is a required nutrient in the body and is normally present in food, chromium is normally present in blood, urine, and body tissues.	Chromium can be found in air, soil, and water after release from industries that use chromium, such as industries involved in electroplating, leather tanning, textile production, and the manufacture of chromium-based products. Chromium can also be released into the environment from the burning of natural gas, oil, or coal.	OSHA set a legal limit for chromium(VI) of 0.005 mg/m^3 chromium in air averaged over an 8-hour work day, for chromium(III) of 0.5 mg/m^3 chromium in air averaged over an 8-hour work day, and for chromium(0) of 1.0 mg/m^3 chromium in air averaged over an 8-hour work day.
Cobalt			
Copper			
Iron			

Lead			
Magnesium			
Molybdenum			
Nickel			
Potassium			

Selenium			
Sodium			
Thallium			
Vanadium			
Zinc			

Attachment 3a: Dust Data Tables
Attachment 3b: Air Data Tables
Attachment 3c: Soil Data Tables
Attachment 4: Health Officer Determination Form
Attachment 5: Photo Documentation